

**I stand as a parent in support of SB 438  
SB 438**

EXHIBIT 2  
DATE 3-9-09  
SB 438

Years Ago - Beer tasted like beer, wine tasted like wine and gas stations pumped gas.

**Now alcohol can taste like soda pop, wine is often a “cooler” and comes in every color imaginable at just about every convenience or grocery store in town.**

Years Ago – A party line meant there were two families using the same phone line. Ring tones were standard and wall paper was something you put on your walls.

**Now – Instant text messages alert scores of friends to the location of a “party” with a push of a button. Ring tones and wall paper are something you can download from a beer company’s website for your cell phone.**

Years ago - Game Nights included games like Monopoly and Charades.

**Now - Ping Pong has become Beer Pong and Quarters are not just for putting in a juke box.**

Years Ago – An all-nighter meant we had a big test to study for.

**Now – it’s a “wide awake drunk” achieved from drinking energy drinks laden with caffeine and alcohol.**

When it comes to alcohol, there’s been a shift and it’s happened so gradually that many of us may not have even noticed.

Teens purchase more (regular – nonalcoholic) energy drinks than any other age group – You’ve seen the cans. Alcoholic Energy drinks look a lot like the regular ones and it’s difficult for parents and even some retailers to differentiate between the alcoholic and non alcoholic versions.

Research continues to analyze the effects of combining stimulants like caffeine with depressants like alcohol. There is a misconception that the caffeine counteracts the effects of alcohol - but it doesn’t. Kids just stay awake longer and drink more, which puts them at an even higher risk for alcohol poisoning.

You’ve heard the statistics. Our teen drinking record is nothing to be proud of. And when we have pre-teens telling us they have started drinking regularly, it’s not good either.

When prevention specialists and lawmakers get together and start talking seriously about reducing underage drinking, you might hear a couple of words like access and price. If you reduce a teens access to alcohol, you’ll reduce underage drinking. If you increase the price of the alcohol, you’ll reduce underage drinking.

SB 438 is a bill that attempts to reduce a teens access to one particular mix of alcohol whose consequences from use are not clearly understood. At the same time this bill would increase it’s price, which also makes it less desirable to teens. Two good moves in one bill..... it’s a start. Please support this bill.

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